

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-7 are active in the case. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to a telomerization process in which a mixture of 1,3-butadiene and other hydrocarbons is reacted with a nucleophile in the presence of a catalyst.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended so that it more clearly and positively recites that any alkyne and 1,2-butadiene, if present in the mixture of hydrocarbons, is removed prior to the telomerization step of the process. The amending language does not introduce a new concept or new issue into the claims, but rather is a clarification. The end of Claim 1 has been amended to correct an unintended omission from the definition of the catalyst, when the catalytically active metal is Pd. A grammatical error has been corrected in Claim 4. None of the amendments are believed to have introduced new matter into the case. Entry of the amendments into the record is respectfully requested.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-7 stand rejected based on the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 1-11 of U. S. Patent 7,026,523. This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner states that the only *difference between '523 and the present application is that the patent is directed to a palladium-carbene complex catalyst whereas the present application calls for a broader metal-carbene complex catalyst*. Applicants do not concur. Claim 1 of the present application has previously, and does now so perhaps more discernibly, require that any alkyne or 1,2-butadiene, if present, in the hydrocarbon mixture as defined in the present claims, must be removed by some means from the hydrocarbon mixture that is to

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undergo telomerization. None of the claims of the cited patent require the removal of alkynes and 1,2-butadiene from the acyclic olefin being subjected to telomerization. The present claims are therefore unobvious over the claims of the patent. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It is believed that the application is in proper condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.


Respectfully submitted,

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